

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 11804 171845Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6910

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11804

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW, BU, CZ, HU

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS HEATING UP FRG DIFFICULTIES WITH
EAST EUROPEANS OVER BERLIN

REF: BONN 11688

SUMMARY: REPORTS IN THE WEST GERMAN PRESS IN LAST
SEVERAL DAYS HAVE UNDERSCORED FRG'S CURRENT DIFFICUL-
TIES WITH BULGARIANS, HUNGARIANS AND CZECHS ON BERLIN
(REFTEL). THESE REPORTS, INCLUDING ONE DPA ACCOUNT
DATELINED WASHINGTON, HAVE INCREASED PRESSURE ON ALLIES
AS WELL AS FRG AND WERE DISCUSSED AT AUGUST 17 TRI-
PARTITE AND BONN GROUP MEETINGS. JOINT PRESS LINE
AGREED.

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, THE WEST GERMAN MEDIA HAVE CON-
TINUED TO PLAY UP THE CURRENT FRG PROBLEMS WITH EAST
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PAGE 02 BONN 11804 171845Z

EUROPEAN NEGOTIATORS RELATING TO REPRESENTATION OF

WEST BERLIN IN LEGAL ASSISTANCE MATTERS. REPORTS HAVE NOW APPEARED INDICATING THAT AN ALLIED INTERPRETATION OF THE "CONSULAR SERVICES" SECTION OF THE QA IS BEING ACTIVELY CONSIDERED IN THIS CONTEXT. ONE OF THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE SOUNDING ACCOUNTS WAS A DPA REPORT WHICH WAS BROADCAST ON WEST GERMAN RADIO, DATELINED WASHINGTON, EARLY AUGUST 17. THE DPA REPORT COMMENTS THAT "THE BONN GROUP IS NOW PREPARING A COMMON INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSULAR SERVICES QUESTION PERTAINING TO WEST BERLIN....ACCORDING TO AUTHORITATIVE STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES IN WASHINGTON, THE SOVIET UNION HAS NOT YET BEEN CONSULTED IN THIS QUESTION." OTHER, LESS DEFINITIVE, REPORTS CAME OUT OF LONDON, MOSCOW AND PARIS. THE GENERAL GIST OF THE LONDON AND PARIS REPORTS WAS THAT A TRIPARTITE INTERPRETATION MIGHT OPEN MORE QUESTIONS THAN IT WOULD ANSWER.

2. AT AUGUST 17 TRIPARTITE MEETING, ALLIED REPS DISCUSSED MATTER AT SOME LENGTH. THE UK REP (CROMARTIE) SAID THAT HIS EMBASSY PRESS OFFICER HAD IN FACT ALREADY MADE A STATEMENT TO A NEWSMAN IN BONN ON BACKGROUND, ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: THE BRITISH SAID THEY WOULD HAVE NO FORMAL COMMENT TO MAKE, BUT COULD CONFIRM THAT OF COURSE THERE HAVE BEEN REGULAR CONTACTS BETWEEN THE ALLIES AND THE FRG ON MATTERS AFFECTING BERLIN.

3. AT SUBSEQUENT BONN GROUP MEETING AUGUST 17, FONOFF REP (BLECH) SAID HE HAD ADVISED FRG PRESS OFFICIALS TO TAKE SIMILAR LINE, REFERRING TO FACT THAT ALLIES AND FRG HAVE CONSULTED VERY CLOSELY FOR MANY YEARS ON BERLIN AND THE GERMAN QUESTION IN GENERAL. (AT HIS AFTERNOON PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 17, FRG SPOKESMAN VON WECHMAR SAID THE FRG WOULD HAVE NO NEW POSITION TO REPORT UNTIL NEXT WEEK ON THE STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CZECHS AND HUNGARIANS. "WHAT THERE IS TO SAY HAS BEEN SAID," HE COMMENTED.) IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED IN THE BONN GROUP THAT ALLIED (AND FRG) STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS SHOULD BE MADE ALONG LINES OF UK AND FRG COMMENTS ABOVE.

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PAGE 03 BONN 11804 171845Z

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